

I. Listing of Claims

CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A side curtain air bag, which includes chambers expanded by gas supplied from a gas generator, and expands and develops into a curtain shape along a side part of a vehicle so as to protect vehicle occupants, the side curtain air bag comprising:

at least one primary chamber defining an aperture that provides fluid communication between the primary chamber and the gas generator, the primary chamber being expandable ~~which expands~~ by gas supplied by the gas generator so as to protect an occupant;

at least one secondary chamber defining an opening that provides fluid communication between the secondary chamber and the gas generator, the secondary chamber being expandable by gas supplied by the gas generator, the aperture and the opening being sized such that the aperture is substantially larger than the opening so that the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop after the primary chamber is approximately fully expanded and developed by gas from the gas generator, and relative to when the gas is generated by the gas generator high pressure

is applied initially to the primary chamber, whereas the secondary chamber gradually increases in pressure to be about the same as pressure of the primary chamber; and

at least two tethers, each tether having one end attached to the side curtain air bag at a joint end and the other end attached to a vehicle at a fixation end,

wherein, when the side curtain air bag is expanded and developed, the primary chamber and the secondary chamber are arranged such that a portion or all of the primary chamber and a portion or all of the secondary chamber respectively overlap a virtual band, the virtual band being formed along a virtual line connecting the respective joint ends of the at least two tethers, the virtual band defining a region where tension is applied across the side curtain air bag when the primary chamber is approximately fully expanded and developed and the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) The side curtain air bag according to claim 3, wherein the opening of the secondary chamber is in fluid communication with the primary chamber, the secondary chamber being expanded by an inflow of the gas from the primary chamber.

6. (Currently Amended) A side curtain air bag, which includes chambers expanded by gas supplied from a gas generator, and expands and develops into a

curtain shape along a side part of a vehicle so as to protect vehicle occupants, the side curtain air bag comprising:

at least one primary chamber defining an aperture that provides fluid communication between the primary chamber and the gas generator, the primary chamber being expandable ~~which expands~~ by gas supplied by the gas generator so as to protect an occupant;

at least one secondary chamber defining an opening that provides fluid communication between the secondary chamber and the gas generator, the secondary chamber being expandable by gas supplied by the gas generator, the aperture and the opening being sized such that the aperture is substantially larger than the opening so that the secondary chamber [[beings]] begins to substantially expand and develop after the primary chamber is approximately fully expanded and developed by gas from the gas generator, and relative to when the gas is generated by the gas generator high pressure is applied initially to the primary chamber, whereas the secondary chamber gradually increases in pressure to be about the same as pressure of the primary chamber;

at least two tethers, each tether having one end attached to an attachment point on the side curtain air bag at a joint end and the other end attached to a vehicle at a fixation end, in a forward and backward direction of the vehicle,

wherein, when the side curtain air bag is expanded and developed, the primary chamber and the secondary chamber are arranged such that a portion or all of the primary chamber and a portion or all of the secondary chamber respectively overlap a virtual band, the virtual band being formed between a first virtual line connecting

respective upper ends of the attachment points of the tethers and a second virtual line connecting respective lower ends of the attachment points of the tethers, the virtual band defining a region where tension is applied across the side curtain air bag when the primary chamber is approximately fully expanded and developed and the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) The side curtain air bag according to claim 6, wherein the opening of the secondary chamber is in fluid communication with the primary chamber, the secondary chamber being expanded by an inflow of the gas from the primary chamber.

9. (Currently Amended) A side curtain air bag, which includes chambers expanded by gas supplied from a gas generator, and expands and develops into a curtain shape along a side part of a vehicle so as to protect vehicle occupants, the side curtain air bag comprising:

at least one primary chamber defining an aperture that provides fluid communication between the primary chamber and the gas generator, the primary chamber being expandable ~~which expands~~ by gas supplied by the gas generator so as to protect an occupant;

at least one secondary chamber defining an opening that provides fluid communication between the secondary chamber and the gas generator, the secondary

chamber being expandable by gas supplied by the gas generator, the aperture and the opening being sized such that the aperture is substantially larger than the opening so that the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop—after the primary chamber is approximately fully expanded and developed by gas from the gas generator, and relative to when the gas is generated by the gas generator high pressure is applied initially to the primary chamber, whereas the secondary chamber gradually increases in pressure to be about the same as pressure of the primary chamber; and

at least two tethers, each tether having a joint end attached to the side curtain air bag at an attachment point on the side curtain air bag and a fixation end attached to a vehicle[[;]], in [[the]] a forward and backward direction of the vehicle,

wherein, when the side curtain air bag is expanded and developed, the primary chamber and the secondary chamber are arranged such that a portion or all of the primary chamber and a portion or all of the secondary chamber respectively overlap a virtual band, the virtual band being formed between a first virtual line connecting an upper end of the attachment point of one tether and the fixation end of the other tether, and a second virtual line connecting respective lower ends of the attachment points of the tethers, the virtual band defining a region where tension is applied across the side curtain air bag when the primary chamber is approximately fully expanded and developed and the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) The side curtain air bag according to claim 9, wherein the opening of the secondary chamber is in fluid communication with the primary chamber, the secondary chamber being expanded by an inflow of the gas from the primary chamber.

12. (Previously Presented) The side curtain air bag according to claim 3, wherein pressure in the primary chamber has reached a maximum value before the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop and the primary chamber continuously decreases in pressure as the secondary chamber expands and develops.

13. (Previously Presented) The side curtain air bag according to claim 6, wherein pressure in the primary chamber has reached a maximum value before the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop and the primary chamber continuously decreases in pressure as the secondary chamber expands and develops.

14. (Previously Presented) The side curtain air bag according to claim 9, wherein pressure in the primary chamber has reached a maximum value before the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop and the primary chamber continuously decreases in pressure as the secondary chamber expands and develops.

15. (New) The side curtain air bag according to claim 3, wherein the pressure of the secondary chamber gradually increases to be about the same as the pressure of the primary chamber by about 4 seconds or thereafter.

16. (New) The side curtain air bag according to claim 6, wherein the pressure of the secondary chamber gradually increases to be about the same as the pressure of the primary chamber by about 4 seconds or thereafter.

17. (New) The side curtain air bag according to claim 9, wherein the pressure of the secondary chamber gradually increases to be about the same as the pressure of the primary chamber by about 4 seconds or thereafter.